

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is one, I'm sure, that the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee Chairman and I disagree on. But he thought maybe since we got such unanimous agreement on the other two amendments that I may withdraw this one, but I'm obligated to keep the amendment and to urge adoption of amendment to LB 408. It's a very simple amendment. I'd like to say it's a technical change, but it isn't. Many of you know what it is all about. You read it in the Journal. Let me start from the beginning. I met with several business people in the South Omaha area over the weekend. I was amazed to find out how worried they are about their businesses. You will recall, and I think I passed out a copy of the article that was in the World Herald. If you notice the last paragraph, the World Herald estimate, that there is going to be at least 500,000 people from Douglas County that will be going over to Iowa to play the...to buy lottery tickets, and in the very near future to play the video machines, the dog races. The businesses that I talked to are a little concerned. They said a couple years ago we allowed Ak-Sar-Ben to change the hours of their racing to four o'clock, which totally hurts their business, in some places practically destroyed it during the racing season because at four o'clock, when the people are at the races and by the time they get out at seven-thirty, eight o'clock they are ready to go on home because the next day is a working day. When we had the races at one o'clock the people would get out of the races at six, seven o'clock and would enter the restaurants and have dinner, and some of them would stay over night, but very few because of the working day the next day. So we hurt them in two ways at Ak-Sar-Ben races. And now with Council Bluffs coming in with what they are going to come in with in the next year, and by the World Herald's own estimate 500,000 people, now if you figure that out if 500,000 people spend \$5.00 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, that is \$2.5 million. We are going to lose sales tax because they will be buying their meals over there. They will be going to the taverns, and I'm sure when they do go over there and spend the day or spend an afternoon they may also be doing some shopping. So I'm telling you that it is going to hurt Omaha. It is going to hurt Bellevue. And the surrounding states that are going to come in with lotteries of any type are going to hurt Nebraska. We are going to be surrounded by states that are going to be taking revenue from the State of Nebraska. Now I could care less about horse racing or about bingo or